

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET UT-060369
)	
)	ORDER 01
CENTURYTEL OF WASHINGTON, INC.)	
)	ORDER GRANTING
)	LIMITED EXEMPTION
For Waiver of WAC 480-120-071(2)(a).)	FROM RULE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 8, 2006, CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., d/b/a CenturyTel (CenturyTel or the company) filed a petition requesting exemption from WAC 480-120-071.

- 2 WAC 480-120-071 requires telecommunications companies to provide service extensions to occupied premises within eighteen months after a request and initial payment.

- 3 Pursuant to WAC 480-120-071 (7) (a), CenturyTel requests exemption from the provisions of WAC 480-120-071 (2) for a specific customer location within the company’s Nespalem Exchange in Okanogan County. CenturyTel estimates the cost to extend service to this location is \$301,040. The company submits that it is unreasonable for CenturyTel and other telecommunications customers in the state of Washington to pay this much to extend service to a single customer. In addition, CenturyTel adds that maintaining service to this location would impose substantial ongoing operational difficulties and financial burdens.

- 4 Commission staff reviewed the request and recommended granting CenturyTel’s specific request for exemption in this case.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the state of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including telecommunications companies. *RCW 80.01.040, Chapter 80.04 RCW, Chapter 80.36 RCW, Chapter 80.08 RCW and Chapter 80.12 RCW.*

- 6 (2) CenturyTel is engaged in the business of providing telecommunications services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under the provisions of Chapter 80.36 RCW.
- 7 (3) CenturyTel is subject to the provisions of WAC 480-120-071 requiring telecommunications companies to provide service extensions to occupied premises within eighteen months after a request and initial payment.
- 8 (4) WAC 480-120-015 provides that the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in Chapter 480-120 WAC, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes. WAC 480-120-071(7) provides additional waiver (or exemption) authority.
- 9 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 26, 2006.
- 10 (6) After review of the petition filed in Docket UT-060369 by CenturyTel on March 8, 2006, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is reasonable, consistent with the public interest, and should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) After the effective date of this order, CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., d/b/a CenturyTel is granted an exemption from WAC 480-120-071 (2) (a) and (b), for one customer location within the company's Nespelem Exchange in Okanogan County where the company estimates the cost to extend service would exceed \$300,000.
- 12 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and CenturyTel of Washington, Inc., d/b/a CenturyTel to effectuate the provisions of this order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 26, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner